

**May 2005**

The young, and young at heart, celebrate site's selection for grant funding**Ruth Rowell Modie Wildlife Park**

Photo courtesy Phillip Shinn

Lewiston, Idaho (April 30 & May 1, 2005) - Festivities at Modie Park during two recent annual events – the Modie Park Conservancy's (MPC) Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony and the Girl Scout's Green It and Clean It Day – were especially festive this year as Lewiston's young, and young at heart, celebrated news that Ruth Rowell Modie Wildlife Park has been selected by the State of Idaho for \$211,775 in grant assistance to be provided through the NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

LWCF funds will be matched dollar for dollar with in-kind services and an 8.05-acre land donation from the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Land. The project will expand the current 6.87-acre site; pave the last link in a half-mile fitness trail that traverses the site; construct an accessible restroom, picnic areas and parking lot; and install interpretive signs and more than 500 trees and shrubs. Lewiston's Park Director, Lynn Moss, is "excited to receive word of this grant funding and anxious to start construction. Like most communities throughout Idaho, the city's access to LWCF funds has been the keystone to preserving the open spaces and developing the park resources Lewiston's residents enjoy today." For more information, please contact Gloria Shinn, LWCF/UPARR Project Manager, Pacific West Region, Seattle Office, at gloria_shinn@nps.gov or 206-220-4126.

Bike Route Designated a Segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
Volunteers and Partnerships Are Key

Fort Washington, MD (May 13, 2005) – With assistance from the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program and the NPS Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) Office, Prince George's County applied for designation of the 22-mile route as a segment of the PHNST. At a gathering in Fort Washington Park, NPS Regional Director Joe Lawler formally recognized the designation with a presentation of the Trail marker to the County, and Trail Superintendent Don Briggs acknowledged volunteers Jim Hudnall and Mark Holt, members of Prince George's County Bicycle and Trail



Photo courtesy Don Briggs/NPS Photo

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Advisory Group (BTAG), and the leadership of Trails Coordinator Fred Shaffer, BTAG co-chair. The volunteer BTAG researched and published a folder describing a bicycling route connecting historic districts, the Potomac River, a recreation center and many parks which made the designation possible. Significantly, the route is also recognized as a component of the Tidewater Potomac Heritage Bicycling Route, identified in a recent guide published by Adventure Cycling Association with assistance from the PHNST Office. For more information, please contact Don Briggs, Superintendent, PHNST, at don_briggs@nps.gov or 304-535-4016; Fred Shaffer, Trails Coordinator, Prince Georges County, at 301-952-3661; or see www.eparks.com to obtain a copy of the Tidewater guide.

Regional Trail Link Constructed with Persistenceand a little help from some friends



San Bernardino County Supervisor Josie Gonzales, 5th District, and friends, including San Bernardino City Councilmember Susan Lien Longville prepare to cut the ribbon for the Santa Ana River Trail in San Bernardino. Photo courtesy Jim Donovan

San Bernardino County, CA (April 23, 2005) – The county completed its first 3.5-mile phase of the Santa Ana River Trail (SART), which will ultimately provide a continuous, multiple-use trail extending 110 miles from the San Bernardino National Forest to the Pacific Ocean. The project was supported by federal Transportation Equity Act funds administered by Federal Highway Administration and a US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields assessment grant. State and local project partners, included California Department of Transportation, San Bernardino Associated Governments, and The Wildlands Conservancy. Department of Interior support for this project dates back to an early 1970's tri-county greenway study. In 1989 and 1990, the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program helped the county develop a master plan for the river. In a 2002 regional trails update, also supported by RTCA, SART was cited as the county's greatest trail priority, with a potential for numerous local trail connections along tributaries to the river. For more information, please contact Peg Henderson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at peg_henderson@nps.gov or 510-817-1448 or Jim Donovan, Community Planner, at jim_donovan@nps.gov or (323) 441-2117.

Community Volunteers Plant Trees to Restore New York City Wetland

Two days of native species planting and wetland workshop

Rosedale Queens, NYC, NY (April 22 & 23, 2005) - Community residents, youth groups, and grade school classes planted more than 1350 native trees, shrubs, and other plants to enhance Idlewild Park's freshwater wetland. Idlewild is a 224 acre wetland preserve managed by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. This event initiated a new hands-on component of the Idlewild Park Restoration Initiative which promotes community involvement in

the management and restoration of the preserve. Staff from the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program helped plan and coordinate this community planting day. RTCA staff also assisted the Eastern Queens Alliance in obtaining a Five-Star National Wildlife Federation grant to purchase plants, tools, and refreshments. Project partners included Eastern Queens Alliance; NYC Dept of Parks & Recreation, Natural Resources Group and Green Apple Corp; NYC Department of Environmental Protection; Partnerships for Parks; and Public School 181. For more information, please contact Joanne Dittersdorf, NYC RTCA Project Director, at joanne_dittersdorf@nps.gov or 212-677-2003.

City of Galveston Obtains Critical Addition to Coastal Wetlands

Community obtains permanent public beach access to the last unprotected parcel

Galveston, TX (May 11, 2005) –The photo below shows how important public beach access is on Galveston Island. The National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) program transferred 230.84 acres to the City of Galveston, Texas, for public park and recreation use. Originally acquired by the U.S. Army in 1898 for Fort San Jacinto, the property had recently been used by the Coast Guard for Long Range Navigation (LORAN) transmissions. Valued at over \$4,500,000, this surplus Coast Guard LORAN Station will be preserved for beach access, protection of the coastal wetland/beach dune habitat, and nature study, including nature trails and wildlife observation stations.

Galveston Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas said that: "...If we get this land we will all have something to be very proud of! The land is truly an environmental jewel for our City." The LORAN parcel is located between two parcels previously transferred under the FLP program, thus protecting all of the east end of Galveston Island. The transfer was negotiated by FLP staff. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, FLP Program Manager, Atlanta, GA, at bill_huie@nps.gov or 404-562-3175.



Photo courtesy City of Galveston

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

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